

August 27, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition (GWHFC)

The Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition has done nothing but good for the needy of the community for over 25 years. I am the owner of Opamp Technical Books, and am getting tired of the vicious attacks on the GWHFC that are groundless and without merit. I have two buildings on Sycamore, one half block from Romaine and Sycamore. The homeless use this corner for two hours each day.

It seems to me that the thrust of the discord is with Occidental Entertainment Group, represented by Richard Howard. Also a gentleman named Alexander Polinsky, who I suspect might be working for Occidental. The vast majority of the documents come from these two sources. Polinsky lives three blocks away from the corner in question. Occidental Entertainment is owned by Albert Sweet, who owns a great deal of real estate in the "BID zone" in Hollywood. He also owns a rental agency for much of the commercial real estate in the "BID zone".

It seems that all roads lead back to Albert Sweet/Occidental Entertainment.

The smear campaign that has been instigated is vicious and unwarranted. Now they have targeted Opamp, due to a city employee telling the GWHFC that they could not serve on tables at the regular corner on August 22, 2013. I wonder if this could have been instigated by the same people. Then when the homeless line was moved down the street to our location, pictures were taken, notices were sent via email to the whole community (BID-emailing list), from Polinsky's email, to target Opamp because we were being a good neighbor.

It feels like I was set up.

Please note that the email that was sent contained pictures of our building and our address, and preceded with Polinsky telling all BID members that he hoped everyone called Opamp Books the next day and tell them "what the neighborhood thinks about this".

Polinsky, that evening, waited for our computer network administrator to leave the building and verbally attacked him, which left him feeling very threatened by this individual.

Funny, the only one who bothered to call Opamp the following day was one individual who refused to identify himself or leave a number and never called back, and the Record Plant across the street (which was understandable, since they thought that the GWHFC was permanently moving in across the street from them). No one else could spend the dime or the time to contact me that day, or since. The apathy went wild!! It is good that I didn't put in extra phone lines for the occasion.

They (the powers that want-to-be) are portraying this as a crime-related problem. I went to www.crimemapping.com and when you zoom into the area of Romaine and Sycamore, the crime rate for the last month indicates a conspicuous lack of activity in the immediate area. Interesting.

Of course, I would like to live and work in the Garden of Eden, but the reality is that we are all responsible for each other. Okay, the homeless can't afford to come to the lines in a shirt and tie, but they are human beings, veterans, people who have worked for you and me in the past, people who have gotten sick or injured through no fault of their own, along with a myriad of other reasons for being on the street, one of which is the current economy.

At what point do we discard people because the "higher purpose" of "making money", which seems to be the driving force for most people these days, is more important than anything else? ***How selfish of a society we all have become.*** Should we have them go elsewhere? Where is this elsewhere? Every community has homeless in it. I drive around the city and I don't see a disproportionate distribution in Hollywood versus other communities. My feeling is that, if we can feed the homeless, they will not have to find alternative means to find a meal. When people are hungry, they get desperate ... I know I would.

The letter that Rich Howard mentioned was not written by me. There are two opposing sides on this issue, both with their own perspective. Maybe what we should be asking is what would be the right or moral thing to do.

To sum it up: we are talking about two hours per day that the homeless use the street, so they can have one meal.

Occidental doesn't even own the property on that corner. They are more concerned with the ambience for the two hours it is used.

They said that they would help locate an alternate location, and possibly help defray the cost, but the GWHFC has not yet heard anything from them.

Additionally, Occidental has currently implied legal action against Opamp due to the fact that I have been a good neighbor to the GWHFC when it rains, or when there are other acts of God that prevent them from being at Romaine and Sycamore. I have also loaned out and rented our property to the neighbors who have film crews, who take up the whole street for many days at a time, so they can feed the crews. This year, the rain has been almost nonexistent, but the street crews were disrupting the corner of Romaine and Sycamore for water lines a couple months back.

Furthermore, we do not have the involvement that we have been accused of by Richard Howard, due to Polinsky's incorrect and vivid attack that elicited the letter that we received from Occidental. If we have been a good neighbor to the GWHFC, who have been here for over 25 years, longer than some of us, so be it.

Sincerely,

Lyn Luzwick
Opamp Technical Books